

LEA

2. To conduct as a commander.  
Cyrus was beaten and slain under the *leading* of a woman, whose wit and conduct made a great figure in ancient story. *Temple.*
3. To shew the way, by going first.  
He left his mother a countess by patent, which was a new *leading* example, grown before somewhat rare, since the days of queen Mary. *Weston.*  
The way of maturing of tobacco must be from the heat of the earth or sun; we see some *leading* of this in muskmelons sown upon a hot-bed dunned below. *Bacon.*  
The vessels heavy-laden put to sea.  
With prosperous gales, and woman *leads* the way. *Dryden.*  
LEAD, *n. f.* [from the verb.] Guidance; first place: a low despicable word.  
Yorkshire takes the *lead* of the other countries. *Herring.*  
LEADEN, *adj.* [leaden, Saxon.]  
1. Made of lead.  
This tiger-footed rage, when it shall find  
The harm of unkindness' swiftnefs, will, too late,  
Tye *leaden* pounds to 's heels. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*  
O murtherous slumber!  
Lay'st thou the *leaden* mace upon my boy,  
That plays thee music. *Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.*  
A *leaden* bullet shot from one of these guns against a stone wall, the space of twenty-four paces from it, will be beaten into a thin plate. *Wilkins's Mathematical Magick.*
2. Heavy; unwilling; motionless.  
If thou do'st find him tractable to us,  
Encourage him, and tell him all our reasons:  
If he be *leaden*, icy, cold, unwilling,  
Be thou so too. *Shakespeare's Rich. III.*
3. Heavy; dull.  
I'll strive with troubled thoughts to take a nap;  
Left *leaden* lumber poize me down to-morrow,  
When I should mount with wings of victory. *Shakespeare.*  
LEADER, *n. f.* [from lead.]  
1. One that leads, or conducts.  
2. Captain; commander.  
In my tent  
I'll draw the form and model of our battle,  
Limit each *leader* to his several charge,  
And part in just proportion our small strength. *Shakespeare.*  
I have given him for a *leader* and commander to the people. *Id. iv. 4.*  
Those who escaped by flight excused their dishonour, not without a sharp jest against some of their *leaders*, affirming, that, as they had followed them into the field, so it was good reason they should follow them out. *Hayward.*  
When our Lycians see  
Our brave examples, they admiring say,  
Behold our gallant *leaders*. *Denham.*  
The brave *leader* of the Lycian crew. *Dryden.*  
One who goes first.  
Nay keep your way, little gallant; you were wont to be a follower now you are a *leader*. *Shakespeare.*  
4. One at the head of any party or faction: as the detestable Wharton was the *leader* of the whigs.  
The understandings of a senate are enlaved by three or four *leaders*, set to get or to keep employments. *Swift.*  
LEADING, *participle adj.* Principal.  
In organized bodies, which are propagated by seed, the shape is the *leading* quality, and most characteristic part, that determines the species. *Locke.*  
Mistakes arise from the influence of private persons upon great numbers stiled *leading* men and parties. *Swift.*  
LEADING-STRINGS, *n. f.* [lead and string.] Strings by which children, when they learn to walk, are held from falling.  
Sound may serve such, ere they to sense are grown,  
Like *leading-strings*, 'till they can walk alone. *Dryden.*  
Was he ever able to walk without *leading-strings*, or swim without bladders, without being discovered by his hobbling and his sinking? *Swift.*  
LEADMEN, *n. f.* [lead and man.] One who begins or leads a dance.  
Such a light and mett'd dance  
Saw you never,  
And by *leadmen* for the nonce,  
That turn round like grindle stones. *Benj. Johnson.*  
LEAF, *n. f.* [lead and wort.]  
This flower consists of one leaf, which is shaped like a funnel, and cut into several segments at the top, out of whose fistulous flower-cup rises the point, which afterward becomes one oblong seed, for the most part sharp-pointed, which ripens in the flower-cup. *Miller.*  
LEAF, *n. f.* leaves, plural. [leaf, Saxon; leaf, Dutch.]  
1. The green deciduous parts of plants and flowers.  
This is the state of man; to-day he puts forth  
The tender *leaves* of hopes, to-morrow blossoms. *Shakespeare.*  
A man shall seldom fail of having cherries borne by his graft the same year in which his incision is made, if his graft have blossom buds; whereas if it were only *leaf* buds, it will not bear fruit till the second season. *Baye.*

LEA

- Those things which are removed to a distant view, ought to make but one mals; as the *leaves* on the tree, and the billows in the sea. *Dryden's Discreet.*
2. A part of a book, containing two pages.  
Happy ye *leaves*, when as those *lily* hands  
Shall handle you. *Spenser.*  
Peruse my *leaves* through every part,  
And think thou feel'st my owner's heart  
Scrawl'd o'er with trifles. *Shakespeare.*
  3. One side of a double door.  
The two *leaves* of the one door were folding. *King.*
  4. Any thing foliated, or thinly beaten.  
Eleven ounces two pence sterling ought to be of pure silver, as is called *leaf* silver, and then the minter must add of other weight seventeen pence halfpenny farthing. *Camden.*  
Leaf gold, that lies in the air as light as down, is as truly gold as that in an ingot. *Digby on Metals.*  
To LEAF, *v. n.* [from the noun.] To bring leaves; to bear leaves.  
Most trees sprout, and fall off the *leaves* at autumn; and if not kept back by cold, would *leaf* about the foliage. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. ii.*
- LEAFLESS, *adj.* [from leaf.] Naked of leaves.  
Bare honestly without some other adornment, being looked on as a *leafless* tree, nobody will take himself to its shelter. *Government of the Tongue.*
- Where doves in flocks the *leafless* trees o'er shade,  
And lonely woodcocks haunt the wat'ry glade. *Pope.*
- LEAFY, *adj.* [from leaf.] Full of leaves.  
The flocks of men were ever so,  
Since summer was first *leafy*. *Shakespeare.*  
What chance, good lady, hath bereft you thus?  
—Dim darkness, and this *leafy* labyrinth. *Milton.*  
O'er barren mountains, o'er the flow'ry plain,  
The *leafy* forest, and the liquid main,  
Extends thy uncontroul'd and boundless reign. *Dryden.*  
Her *leafy* arms with such extent were spread,  
That hosts of birds, that wing the liquid air,  
Perch'd in the boughs. *Dryden's Flower and Leaf.*  
So when some swift-travelling travellers retire  
To *leafy* shades, near the cool sunless verge  
Of Paraba, Brazilian stream; her tail  
A grisly hydra suddenly shoots forth. *Philips.*
- LEAGUE, *n. f.* [ligue, French; ligo, Latin.]  
1. A confederacy; a combination.  
You peers, continue this united *League*:  
I every day expect an embassy  
From my Redeemer, to redeem me hence.  
And now in peace my soul shall part to heav'n,  
Since I have made my friends at peace on earth. *Shakespeare.*  
We come to be informed by yourselves,  
What the conditions of that *league* must be. *Shakespeare.*  
Thou shalt be in *league* with the stones of the field; and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee. *Job v. 23.*  
Go break thy *league* with Baalham, that he may depart from me. *2 Chron. xvi. 3.*  
It is a great error, and a narrowness of mind, to think, that nations have nothing to do one with another, except there be either an union in sovereignty, or a conjunction in pacts or *leagues*: there are other bands of society and implicit confederations. *Bacon's Holy War.*  
I, a private person, whom my country  
As a *league* breaker gave up bound, presum'd  
Single rebellion, and did hostile acts. *Milton's Agamemnon.*  
Oh Tyrans, with immortal hate  
Pursue this race: let there be  
'T'wixt us and them no *league* nor amity. *Denham.*  
To LEAGUE, *v. n.* To unite; to confederate.  
Where fraud and falsehood invade society, the band presently breaks, and men are put to a loss where to *league* and to fasten their dependences. *South's Sermons.*- 2. A measure of length, containing three miles.  
Ere the ships could meet by twice five *leagues*,  
We were encounter'd by a mighty rock. *Shakespeare.*  
Ev'n Italy, though many a *league* remote,  
In distant echo's answer'd. *Addison.*

LEAGUED, *adj.* [from league.] Confederated.  
And now thus *leagu'd* by an eternal bond,  
What shall retard the Britons bold designs. *Philips.*

LEAGUER, *n. f.* [belegeren, Dutch.] Siege; investment of a town.  
We will bind and hoodwink him so, that he shall suppose no other but that he is carried into the *leaguer* of the adversaries, when we bring him to our own tent. *Shakespeare.*

LEAK, *n. f.* [leek, leek, Dutch.] A breach or hole which lets in water.  
There will be always evils, which no art of man can cure; breaches and *leaks* more than man's wit hath bonds to stop. *Hester.*

LEA

- The water rushes in, as it doth usually in the *leak* of a ship. *Wilkins's Mathematical Magick.*  
Whether she sprung a *leak* I cannot find,  
Or whether she was over set with wind,  
Or that some rock below her bottom rent,  
But down at once with all her crew she went. *Dryden.*
- To LEAK, *v. n.*  
1. To let water in or out.  
They will allow us ne'er a jordan, and then we *leak* in your chimney. *Shakespeare.*  
The water, which will perhaps by degrees *leak* into several parts, may be emptied out again. *Wilkins's Math. Magick.*  
His feet should be washed every day in cold water; and have his shoes so thin, that they might *leak*, and let in water. *Locke.*
2. To drop through a breach.  
Golden stars hung o'er their heads,  
And seem'd so crowded, that they burst upon 'em,  
And dart at once their baleful influence  
In *leaking* fire. *Dryden's and Lee's Oedipus.*  
LEAKAGE, *n. f.* [from leak.] Allowance made for accidental loss in liquid measures.  
LEAKY, *adj.* [from leak.]  
1. Battered or pierced, so as to let water in or out.  
Thou'rt so *leaky*,  
That we must leave thee to thy sinking; for  
Thy dearest quit thee. *Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra.*  
If you have not enjoy'd what youth could give,  
But life sunk through you like a *leaky* sieve,  
Accuse yourself, you liv'd not while you might. *Dryden.*- 2. Loquacious; not close.  
Women are so *leaky*, that I have hardly met with one that could not hold her breath longer than she could keep a secret. *L'Estrange.*

To LEAN, *v. n.* *peter. leamed or leant.* [clinan, Saxon; lenen, Dutch.]  
1. To incline against; to rest against.  
Lean thine aged back against mine arm,  
And in that case I'll tell thee my disease. *Shakespeare.*  
Security is express'd among the medals of Gordianus, by a lady *leaning* against a pillar, a scepter in her hand, before an altar. *Peacock on Drawing.*  
The columns may be allowed somewhat above their ordinary length, because they *lean* unto so good supporters. *Wotton.*  
Upon his iv'ry sceptre first he *leant*,  
Then shook his head, that shook the firmament. *Dryden.*  
Oppress'd with anguish, panting and o'erspent,  
His fainting limbs against an oak he *leant*. *Dryden's En.*  
If he be angry, all our other dependencies will profit us nothing; every other support will fail under us when we come to *lean* upon it, and deceive us in the day when we want it most. *Rogers's Sermons.*  
Then *leaning* o'er the rails he musing stood,  
Mid the central depth of black'ning woods,  
High rais'd in solemn theatre around  
Leans the huge elephant. *Thomson's Summer.*- 2. To propend; to tend towards.  
They delight rather to *lean* to their old customs, though they be more unjust, and more inconvenient. *Spenser.*  
Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and *lean* not unto thine own understanding. *Prov. iii. 5.*  
A desire *leaning* to either side, biases the judgment strangely. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*
- 3. To be in a bending posture.  
She *leans* me out at her mistress's chamber window, bids me a thousand times good night. *Shakespeare.*  
Wearied with length of ways, and worn with toil,  
She laid her down; and *leaning* on her knees,  
Invok'd the cause of all her miseries. *Dryden.*  
The gods came downward to behold the wars,  
Sharpening their sights, and *leaning* from their stars. *Dryden.*

LEAN, *adj.* [plane, Saxon.]  
1. Not fat; meagre; wanting flesh; bare-boned.  
You tempt the fury of my three attendants,  
Lean famine, quattering steel, and climbing fire. *Shakespeare.*  
Lean raw-bon'd rascals! who would e'er suppose,  
They had such courage and audacity!  
Lean look'd prophets whisper fearful change. *Shakespeare.*  
I would invent as bitter searching terms,  
With full as many signs of deadly hate,  
As *lean-fac'd* envy in her loathsome cave. *Shakespeare.*  
Seven other kine came up out of the river, ill-favoured and lean-fleshed. *Gen. xli. 3.*  
Let a physician beware how he purge after hard frosty weather, and in a *lean* body, without preparation. *Bacon.*  
And fetch their precepts from the cynic tub,  
Praising the *lean*, and fallow, abstinence. *Milton.*  
Swear that Adrastus, and the *lean-look'd* prophet,  
Are joint conspirators. *Dryden and Lee's Oedipus.*  
Lean people often suffer for want of fat, as fat people may by obstruction of the vessels. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*  
No laughing graces war'on in my eyes;  
But haggard grief, *lean* looking fallow care, *Id.*

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- Dwell on my brow. *Roscoe's Jane Shore.*
2. Not unctuous; thin; hungry.  
There are two chief kinds of terrestrial liquors, those that are fat and light, and those that are *lean* and more earthy, like common water. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*
  3. Low; poor; in opposition to great or rich.  
That which combin'd us was most great, and let not  
A *leaner* action rend us. *Shakespeare's Ant. and Cleopatra.*  
LEAN, *n. f.* That part of flesh which consists of the muscle without the fat.  
With razors keen we cut our passage clean  
Through rills of fat, and deluges of *lean*. *Farguher.*  
LEANLY, *adv.* [from lean.] Meagerly; without plumpness.  
LEANNESS, *n. f.* [from lean.]  
1. Extenuation of body; want of flesh; meagreness.  
If thy *leanness* loves such food,  
There are those, that, for thy sake,  
Do enough. *Benj. Johnson's Forest.*  
The symptoms of too great fluidity are excess of universal secretions, as of perspiration, sweat, urine, liquid dejections, *leanness*, and weakness. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*
  2. Want of bulk.  
The poor king Reignier, whose large style  
Agrees not with the *leanness* of his purse. *Shakespeare.*  
To LEAP, *v. n.* [pleapan, Saxon; leap, Scottish.]  
1. To jump; to move upward or progressively without change of the feet.  
If I could win a lady at leap-frog, or by vaulting into my saddle with my armour on, I should quickly *leap* into a wife. *Shakespeare's Henry V.*  
A man *leapeth* better with weights in his hands than without; for that the weight, if it be proportionable, strengtheneth the sinews by contracting them. In *leaping* with weights the arms are first cast backwards and then forwards with so much the greater force; for the hands go backward before they take their rise. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*  
In a narrow pit  
He saw a lion, and *leap'd* down to it. *Cowley's Davideis.*  
Thrice from the ground she *leap'd*, was seen to wield  
Her brandish'd lance. *Dryden's AEn.*
  2. To rush with vehemence.  
God changed the spirit of the king into mildness, who in a fear *leaped* from his throne, and took her in his arms, till she came to herself again. *Ezra. xv. 8.*  
After he went into the tent, and found her not, he *leaped* out to the people. *Judith xiv. 17.*  
He ruin upon ruin heaps,  
And on me, like a furious giant, *leaps*. *Sandys.*  
Strait *leaping* from his horse he rais'd me up. *Roscoe.*
  3. To bound; to spring.  
Rejoice ye in that day, and *leap* for joy. *Luke vi. 23.*  
I am warm'd, my heart  
*Leaps* at the trumpet's voice, and burns for glory. *Addison.*
  4. To fly; to start.  
He parted frowning from me, as if ruin  
*Leap'd* from his eyes: so looks the chafed lion  
Upon the daring huntsman that has gall'd him;  
Then makes him nothing. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*  
Out of his mouth go burning lamps, and sparks of fire *leap* out. *Job xli. 19.*
- To LEAP, *v. a.*  
1. To pass over, or into, by leaping.  
Every man is not of a constitution to *leap* a gulf for the saving of his country. *L'Estrange.*  
As one condemn'd to *leap* a precipice,  
Who sees before his eyes the depth below,  
Stops short. *Dryden's Spanish Friar.*  
She dares pursue, if they dare *lead*:  
As their example still prevails,  
She tempts the stream, or *leaps* the pales. *Prior.*- 2. To comprehs; as beasts.  
Too soon they must not feel the sting of love:  
Let him not *leap* the cow. *Dryden's Georg.*

LEAP, *n. f.* [from the verb.]  
1. Bound; jump; act of leaping.  
2. Space passed by leaping.  
After they have carried their riders safe over all *leaps*, and through all dangers, what comes of them in the end but to be broken-winded. *L'Estrange.*- 3. Sudden transition.  
Wickedness comes on by degrees, as well as virtue; and sudden *leaps* from one extreme to another are unnatural. *L'Estrange's Fables.*  
The commons wrestled even the power of chuling a king intirely out of the hands of the nobles; which was so great a *leap*, and caus'd such a convulsion in the state, that the constitution could not bear. *Swift.*
- 4. An assault of an animal of prey.  
The cat made a *leap* at the mouse. *L'Estrange.*
- 5. Embrace of animals.  
How the cheats her bellowing lovers eye;  
The ruffling *leap*, the doubtful progeny. *Dryden's AEn. c. Hazard,*